particular department of Natural History; I am enabled to pass over in but few words, the less agreeable part of my duty with regard to the publication now before me. But it would be unjust were I to bestow unqualified praise, where the examination of any single page would show that favour, and not justice, must have dictated so partial an appreciation of its merits.

The faults which generally appertain to Mr. Gray's work, may be in part attributed to haste, and to the author's extreme anxiety not to omit a single known species from his catalogue, whether before described or not. The continual occurrence of incorrect typography, too, would perhaps scarcely deserve mention, were it not, in many instances, entirely subversive of the right understanding of the author's meaning. But the frequent adoption of the discoveries of other naturalists, not only without acknowledgement, but with the name of Gray appended as the sign of appropriation, must not be passed over in silence, though I gladly leave so unpleasant a duty with this mere allusion. Allied to this fault is the application of the altered generic name of a former author, to a portion of the original genus, now first considered as distinct, and appropriated by this author. An instance of this occurs in the name *Emyda*, given by Mr. Gray to a part of the genus *Trionyx* of Geoffroy. Now the whole genus was originally named *Amyda* by Schweigger, and improperly put aside by Geoffroy to give place to his own name of *Trionyx*. The mere alteration of a single letter is too slight a deviation to allow us to consider it as an accidental coincidence, though it may be sufficient, in Mr. Gray's view, to give him the right of assuming the name *Emyda* as his own. The Synopsis however is, notwithstanding all these defects, by far the most correct and extensive that has yet appeared; but though its excellencies may well disarm us of asperity in our animadversions on its faults, they make us the more feelingly regret the blemishes with which it is so sullied.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

The Testudinata, like the other Reptilia, are essentially confined to torrid and temperate regions. Although most of them thrive in warm or even hot climates, yet some species of each of the principal groups, excepting the small one of the *Trionychidæ*, are found inhabiting countries of considerably lower temperature. The fresh-water forms generally appear to be capable of bearing a higher latitude than the terrestrial. *Testudo græca* is not, I believe, found farther north than 45°; whilst *Terrapene europæa*, a fresh-water species, is said to be found in Hungary, Silesia, and even in Prussia*, that is to say, as high as 50° to 53° or 54°; it is commonly found near Bourdeaux, and in the North of Italy: and *Emys caspica* inhabits the shores of the Caspian Sea. The American species of land tortoise, *T. tabulata*, is not found north of the river Savannah; whereas the fluviatile and lacustrine species are common in Pennsylvania, and even in States still further north; and I have even received *Emys picta*, an American lacustrine species, from Hudson's Bay, from whence it was brought in the same box with skins of the Arctic fox, and other animals of that region. I cannot however speak with any certainty of the exact situation in which it was taken.

In the Southern Hemisphere, these animals are found as far as 40° S. lat. *Testudo indica* (probably introduced), *T. pardalis*, *T. geometrica*, *Hydraspis galeata*, and several others, inhabit the Cape of Good Hope; and in New Holland are found *Hydraspis longicollis* and *Emys porphyrea*. I have not heard of any species being indigenous to Van Diemen's Land.

Upon the whole, the utmost range of the Testudinata appears to be from 54° N. lat. to about 40° S. lat.

The distribution of the genera and species is a matter of no small interest. There are few genera of which some species are not found both in the Old and New World; but I am not acquainted with a single species, excepting the Marine Turtles, which can be considered indigenous to both hemispheres. This is an important fact, and enables us to correct many erroneous statements respecting the species described by former authors. The only apparent exception to this

* Wulff, *Ichthyologia, &c.*